

LOUISIANA

conservationist

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1975

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...comments

**Heap on more wood!—the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.**

—Sir Walter Scott

November and December are extremely special months for sportsmen in Louisiana, offering the maximum in hunting opportunity with almost every type of game in season. It is the time of harvest—the logical harvest of wildlife in the bounds of sound wildlife management. This year's hunting seasons give promise of being highly gratifying. It is anticipated that the deer bag will surpass all previous years and set a new record for the state.

These are also the months when gulf and coastal fishing is at its winter best. Offshore gulf fishing around the countless petroleum platforms of Louisiana is the envy of the angling world. When much of the country is covered with snow and ice, Louisiana fishermen and visiting friends and relatives enjoy many balmy days. Their lines are taut, their reels hum, and the catch is generally more bountiful than non-residents can believe.

In addition to sportsmen, these months are special ones for persons in all walks of life. They are the big holiday months. There is Thanksgiving, the traditional day when all Americans bask in the warmth of family companionship and express gratitude for living in a country that despite its adversities internally and internationally still stands as a symbol of progress through determination to build and improve.

Perhaps the most important holiday for all of us is Christmas, deeply etched with religious significance but also reflecting joy, warmth, and fellowship. There is a joyful spirit that is reflected not only in the United States but throughout Christendom.

During these two months hunters literally have the recreational book thrown at them. They have the pleasant but sometimes difficult task of deciding what they will hunt. Depending upon individual interest, they can hunt squirrel, rabbit, quail, deer, doves, ducks, coots, geese, rail, snipe, and woodcock.

Hunting seasons will begin to taper off in mid-January, but the big problem for hunters now is deciding how they will spend their available time afield or afloat.

This season of abundance comes at a time when there are other holiday-related chores to do. There's shopping to be done and plans to be made. It is a busy and good time of the year.

As the year races to a close, packed with anticipation and so many things to do, it would seem impossible for the average person to take inventory of what has been accomplished during the year. But there are opportunities when sportsmen have time to reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year.

Perhaps that mental inventory takes place while driving toward a place where a hunt is planned. It may occur during those early morning hours on a deer stand. It may be in a duck blind while waiting for the sound of whispering wings and the first pre-dawn sign of light. It may take place during a lull in fishing.

It has been a good year for wildlife and fisheries management in Louisiana. Notable among the important accomplishments are independence of the commission under governmental reorganization as required under the new Constitution, and restoration of the "Conservation Fund." But there are others.

One is the accelerated land acquisition program. In the past year, the commission purchased some 18,269 acres of land, creating three new wildlife management areas and adding to three others. At the present time two additional tracts totaling 4,116 acres have been located and agreements to purchase are being negotiated. Everything indicates that acts of sale will be completed before the New Year.

Still another wildlife management accomplishment was pressing for and obtaining a reclassification of the Ameri-



J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

can alligator in Cameron, Vermilion, and Calcasieu Parishes. This represents a forward step in returning to state management wildlife resources that rightfully belong to the states. This particular accomplishment in Louisiana will be the basis for similar action in other states and serve to deter federal control of wisely managed state wildlife resources.

The "Oaks For Wildlife" program, which will be expanded next spring, is one which captured public interest and will in time be an important habitat restoration program that will pay dividends.

Progress was made during the year toward bringing about more liberal waterfowl hunting regulations. An experimental zoning of the state for duck hunting during the next four years, allowing the commission to set two distinct seasons for duck hunting in Louisiana, will result in more hunting opportunity and better bag limits. The point system, with ducks such as teal and pintail being valued at 10 points, allows hunters to take 10 ducks daily if they are selective in hunting. This is the first time in more than a quarter-century that hunters have been allowed 10 ducks daily.

These accomplishments and others are things that sportsmen can reflect upon as the year draws to a busy close. In taking this mental inventory of what has been done, we can gear ourselves to the challenges that will come with the months ahead. There is much to be done.

But, this is the start of the most festive season of the year. The commission members join with me in sincere good wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a productive and satisfying New Year.

LOUISIANA conservationist

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BACK COVER: Canada Goose by Lloyd Poissenot.

*I give my pledge as an American to
save and faithfully to defend
from waste the natural
resources of my country—its soil
and minerals, its forest, waters
and wildlife.*

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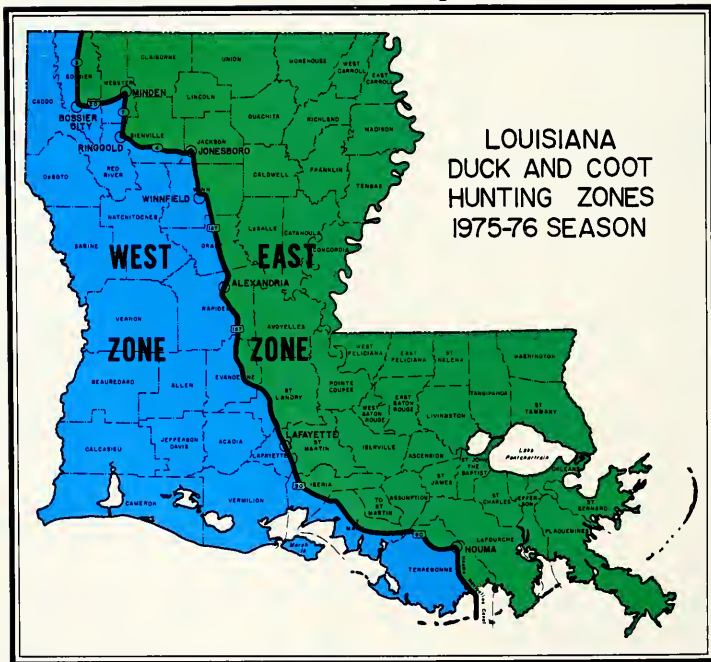
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ZONED DUCKS

By Hugh Bateman
Waterfowl Biologist



WEST AND EAST ZONE LINE DESCRIPTION DUCK AND COOT HUNTING

Beginning at the Arkansas-Louisiana border on La. Hwy. 3; then south along La. Hwy. 3 to Bossier City; then east along Interstate 20 to Minden; then south along La. Hwy. 7 to Ringgold; then east along La. Hwy. 4 to Jonesboro; then south along U.S. Hwy. 167 to Lafayette; then southeast along U.S. 90 to Houma, then south along the Houma Navigation Canal to the Gulf of Mexico through Cat Island Pass.

Louisiana's 1975-76 waterfowl hunting season got off to a great start with what was reported to be a highly successful 9-day September teal season. Large numbers of blue-wings were well distributed throughout the coastal zone and good hunting success was the rule, especially in southwest Louisiana's marshes and ricebelt. An excellent production year for the little blue-winged speedsters and beautiful September weather conditions combined to provide the necessary ingredients for one of the best teal seasons in recent years. Now, Bayou State waterfowlers are looking toward the regular duck season with great interest and anticipation.

For the first time in history Louisiana will be zoned for duck and coot hunting during the regular 1975-76 season. The division of the state into east and west zones actually resulted from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's persistent efforts during the past six years to have Louisiana transferred to the Central Flyway. In spite of substantial biological information that was developed in two studies completed by the Illinois Natural History Survey and Institute of Statistics, North Carolina State University, which indicated that Louisiana should, in fact, be aligned with the Central Flyway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has maintained that such a transfer cannot be made until further studies in Louisiana have been completed.

The zone line was established by the federal agency after an exhaustive study of existing duck migration and harvest information pertaining to Louisiana was conducted. The zones created by the northwest to southeast line are believed to represent duck migration and wintering areas within Louisiana that are closely associated with the Central Flyway (West Zone) and Mississippi Flyway (East Zone).

The zoning proposal as outlined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was aired at a public hearing called by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in Lafayette on June 11, 1975. After

hearing enthusiastic and overwhelming support of the proposal from duck hunters representing all sections of the state the commission unanimously accepted the proposal.

The fine points of the zoning agreement which will be in effect for the next four years, 1975-1978, provide that: (1) the established zone line must remain unchanged, (2) the west zone must open its duck season on the first Saturday in November, (3) the west zone will have five additional days of hunting over the number of days allowed in the east zone, (4) Louisiana will continue to be regulated within the Mississippi Flyway for waterfowl hunting and (5) each of the two established zones may set separate hunting season dates for ducks and coots.

During the four year zoning experiment, extensive banding, harvest surveys, duck population censuses, and radar studies of duck migrations into Louisiana will be conducted in a cooperative effort by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At the end of the four year study all of the information gathered will be examined and a final decision on Louisiana's flyway alignment will be rendered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It should be pointed out here that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accepting the zoning and four year study does not deviate in any manner from its belief that sufficient biological information presently exists to justify transferring Louisiana into the Central Flyway.

Season dates for the 1975-76 duck and coot seasons in Louisiana are as follows:

West Zone—2 way split

1st Segment: (Sat.) November

1—(Sun.) November 30

2nd Segment: (Wed.) December

10—(Sat.) January 3

East Zone—2 way split

1st Segment: (Wed.) November

19—(Wed.) December 3

2nd Segment: (Wed.) December

17—(Tues.) January 20

Shooting hours begin at noon

on the Wednesday opening dates.

The point system which has proven extremely popular in Louisiana will be in effect in both zones and the possibility of a 10 bird bag has stimulated a great deal of interest among Louisiana duck hunters. Special note should be made of changes in point values from last year, particularly the American wigeon which has moved up to the 35 point category. The daily bag limit for ducks will be 100 points with the possession limit being 2 days legal harvest of the proper species and sexes. Correct identification of ducks on the wing will continue to be a particular advantage to hunters so that ducks in higher point categories can be avoided.

Inexperienced duck hunters should take special care in studying the identification guide to avoid confusing such "look-a-likes" as lesser scaup and ring-necked ducks. It will be particularly important for Louisiana hunters to correctly identify the American wigeon which is a 35 point bird. Wigeon are commonly misidentified as gadwall or pintail ducks, which are in the 10 point category.

100 Points

Canvasback

Redhead

90 Points

Mallard Hen

Black Duck

Wood Duck

Hooded Merganser

35 Points

Mallard Drake

Mottled Duck

American Wigeon

Ring-necked Duck

All species not listed

10 Points

Pintail

Gadwall

Green-winged Teal

Blue-winged Teal

Shoveler

Lesser Scaup

Cinnamon Teal

Coots: NO POINT VALUE; 15 daily, 30 in possession

Shooting hours for ducks and

(Continued on page 10)

DUCK ID GUIDE BY POINT CATEGORIES

The art work and written descriptions of ducks are from a waterfowl identification pamphlet published by the Central Flyway Waterfowl Council in 1974. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission wishes to acknowledge and compliment the very fine illustrations by artist, Donald A. Soderlund, Jr., and the states of the Central Flyway for producing an outstanding waterfowl identification guide. Copies of the booklet are produced on plastic paper and are available at a small cost from all State Wildlife Departments in the Central Flyway or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION IN THE CENTRAL FLYWAY

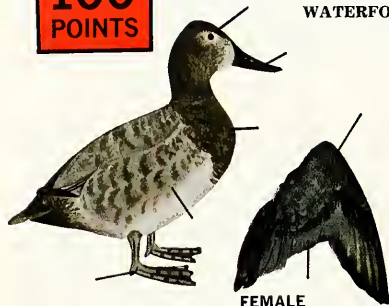
Published by the
CENTRAL FLYWAY
WATERFOWL COUNCIL

1974

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Colorado
Kansas
Montana
Nebraska
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Texas
Wyoming

100
POINTS



FEMALE

Body: Mottled gray-brown with dusky white belly. Pale area at base of bill and around dark brown eyes. Bill and feet similar to male but lighter. Wings: Similar to male but less flecking. Voice: Loud *squawk* or *quack*.

CANVASBACK

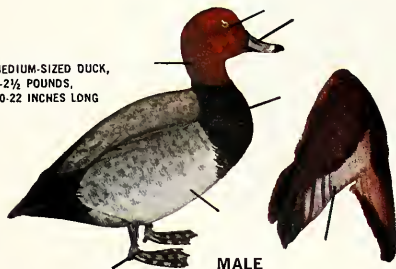


**LARGE DUCK,
UP TO 3 POUNDS,
18-21 INCHES LONG**

MALE

Body: Grayish white with heavy vermiculation. Black chest and rump. Head and neck burnished red. Forehead slopes into elongated black bill. Eyes red. Feet gray. Wings: Grayish white coverts and tertials, Pearl gray speculum; remainder dark gray. Voice: Creak, peep and growl. In Flight: Feet outstretched beyond tail. Elongated neck and body. White belly contrasts with black chest and rump.

**MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
2-2½ POUNDS,
20-22 INCHES LONG**



MALE

Body: Back and sides grayish. Chest and rump black. Belly white. Head rounded and rusty red. Bill gray with white band toward tip. Feet gray. Eyes lemon yellow. Wings: Grayish brown with faint white flecking. Speculum dull pearl gray with faint white trailing edge. Voice: Deep *meow* or *purr*. In Flight: Rapid wingbeat. Flock usually flies low in well-formed V. White belly contrasts with black chest and red head.

REDHEAD

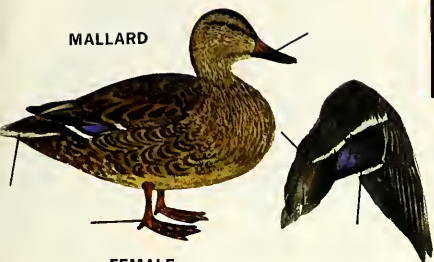


FEMALE

Body: Mottled gray-brown. Head, neck and rump brown. Belly white. Whitish area around eyes and at base of bill. Eyes black. Bill black. Feet gray. Wings: Similar to male. Voice: *Quack*.

CAUTION: Closed season on canvasback and redhead ducks in Caddo, St. Charles, and St. Mary Parishes, that portion of Ward 1, formerly designated as Ward 6 of St. Martin Parish, and Catahoula Lake in Rapides and LaSalle Parishes.

MALLARD



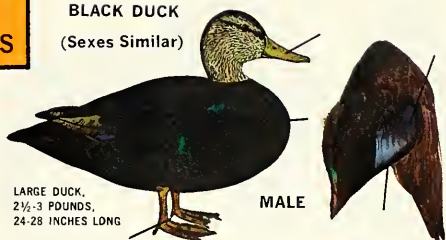
FEMALE

Body: Drab brown with whitish tail. Bill orange with black spots or blotches. Feet orangish. Wings: Similar to male but usually more buffy-edged coverts. White bar on leading edge of speculum extends over the tertial coverts. **Voice:** Loud resonant quack.

90
POINTS

BLACK DUCK

(Sexes Similar)



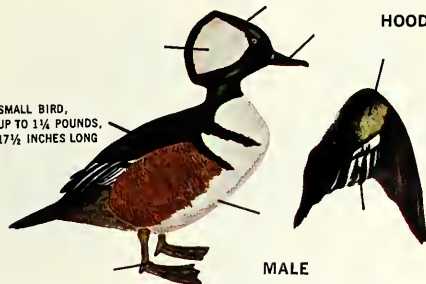
MALE

LARGE DUCK.
2½-3 POUNDS,
24-28 INCHES LONG

Body: Dark sooty appearance with lighter head. Bill of male yellow to greenish yellow; female bill greenish olive with blotches. Feet orange to reddish orange. Wings: Dark with purplish blue speculum bordered with black bars on leading and trailing edges. **Voice:** Female, loud quack; male, low raspy rink. **In Flight:** Black body contrasts with white underwings.

HOODED Merganser

SMALL BIRD.
UP TO 1¼ POUNDS,
17½ INCHES LONG



MALE

Body: Black back with two prominent black bars between chest and sides. White belly. Vermiculated tan sides. Dark greenish black head with distinct hood and fan-shaped white area. Eyes yellow. Bill blackish, narrow and serrated. Feet dull yellowish olive. Wings: Lesser and middle coverts gray, greater coverts, secondaries and tertials black and white; remainder dark. **Voice:** Series of coarse grunts. **In Flight:** Small size. Rapid wingbeat. White head-patch and belly contrast with dark head.

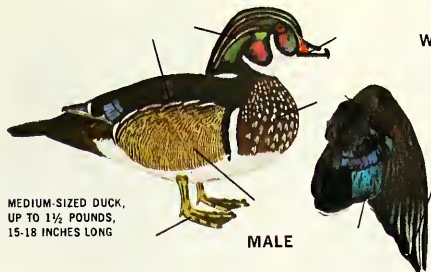
FEMALE



Body: Dark back with chest and sides mottled gray. Belly white. Hood rusty. Eyes yellow-brown. Narrow, serrated blackish bill with yellow or orange tinge. Feet greenish brown. Wings: Similar to male but with less white. Coverts brown instead of gray. **Voice:** Rough grunt.

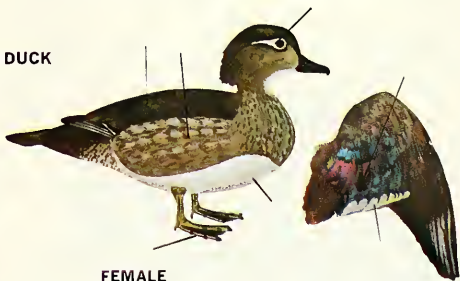
WOOD DUCK

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
UP TO 1½ POUNDS,
15-18 INCHES LONG



MALE

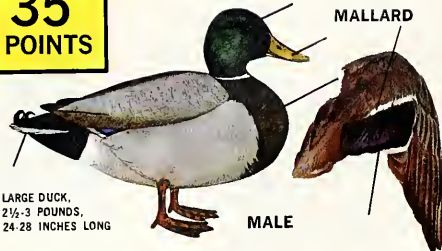
Body: Dark iridescence showing white flecking on cinnamon chest. Sides vermiculated tan. Belly white. Head-crest with distinct white stripes. Eyes red. Short multicolored bill. Feet dull gold. Wings: Coverts and speculum iridescent green, purple and blue. White bar on trailing edge of speculum. Silver-edged primaries. **Voice:** Plaintive squeal. **In Flight:** Large head held high. White belly. Large square tail evident.



FEMALE

Body: Drab brown. Belly white. Back showing iridescent bronze. Chest and sides with white flecking. Head with crest and distinct comet-shaped white eye-ring. Bill dusky black with traces of orange. Feet dull gold. Wings: Similar to male but speculum with teardrop-shaped white trailing edge. **Voice:** Variety of whistles.

**35
POINTS**



LARGE DUCK,
2½-3 POUNDS,
24-28 INCHES LONG

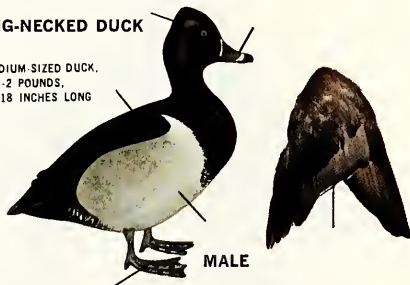
MALLARD

MALE

Body: Chestnut chest, white belly, dark rump and white tail. Head brilliant green. White neck-ring. Bill greenish yellow. Feet dull to bright reddish orange. Wings: Grayish brown with bright blue speculum bordered on leading and trailing edges with distinct white bars. Voice: Low raspy rnk. In flight: White tail and underwings contrast with dark chest and head.

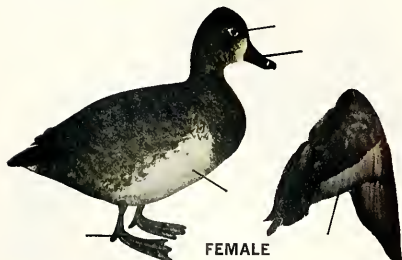
RING-NECKED DUCK

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1½-2 POUNDS,
16-18 INCHES LONG



MALE

Body: Black back, chest and rump with white crescent on side. Belly white. Head blackish purple with distinct crest. Faint chestnut ring around neck. Eyes yellow-orange. Bill gray with white band at base and toward tip. Feet grayish blue. Wings: Greenish-glossed coverts. Speculum pearl gray with faint white trailing edge. Voice: Purrr. In flight: Dark head, neck, back and rump contrast with white belly. Wing-beat fast. Flight formation open.



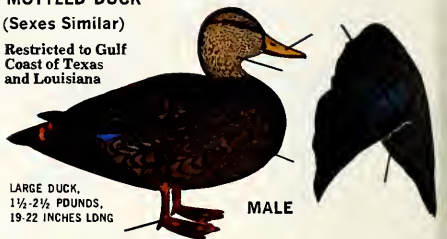
FEMALE

Body: Blackish brown back. Brown head, neck and sides. Belly white. Whitish eye-ring and face-patch. Eyes brown. Bill, feet and wings similar to male. Voice: Occasional purrr.

MOTTLED DUCK (Sexes Similar)

Restricted to Gulf
Coast of Texas
and Louisiana

LARGE DUCK,
1½-2½ POUNDS,
19-22 INCHES LONG

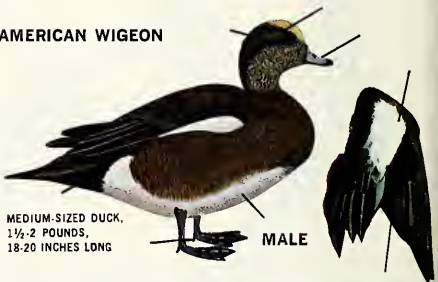


MALE

Body: Dark but lighter than Black Duck because of more buff edging. Head and neck buffy with thin streaking. Chin of female lacks streaking; male chin slight to moderate streaking. Bill of male yellow to greenish yellow; female bill orange with black spots or blotches. Feet orange to bright reddish orange. Wings: Similar to Black Duck although lighter. Trailing edge of speculum often bordered with faint white bars. Voice: Female, loud quack; male, low raspy rnk. In flight: Identical to Black Duck.

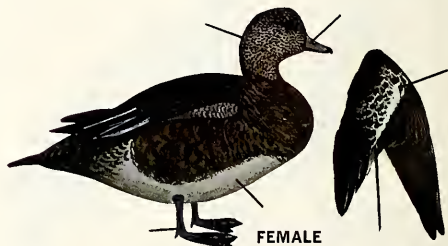
AMERICAN WIGEON

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1½-2 POUNDS,
18-20 INCHES LONG



MALE

Body: Pinkish brown back and sides. White belly. Crown white or buffy. Glossy green eye-mask. Bill short, grayish blue with black tip and base. Feet grayish blue. Wings: Greater and middle coverts form white shoulder. Speculum glossy green shading to black. Voice: Whistle repeated in threes. In flight: White belly. White wing-shoulder. White head-crown and black rump evident.



FEMALE

Body: Mottled brown. Distinct white belly. Head grayish with dark speckles. Short grayish blue bill with dark tip. Feet grayish blue. Wings: Lesser, middle and greater coverts brownish, edged distinctively in white. Speculum dull greenish blue. Voice: Qua-awk.

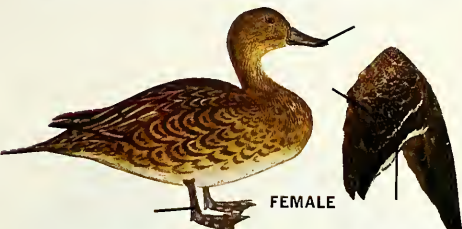
ALL SPECIES OF DUCKS NOT ILLUSTRATED IN THIS IDENTIFICATION GUIDE ARE ASSIGNED A 35 POINT VALUE, EXCEPT CINNAMON TEAL.

**10
POINTS**

LARGE-APPEARING DUCK
2-2½ POUNDS,
22-27 INCHES LONG

**MALE
PINTAIL**

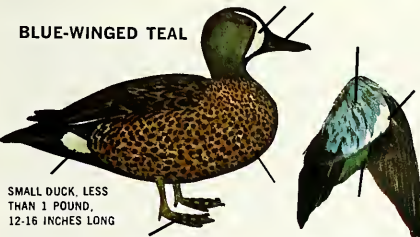
Body: White over neck, chest and belly. Head brown. Bill bluish with black strip down middle. Feet gray. Elongated black tail. **Wings:** Distinct gray with iridescent green speculum bordered on leading edge with buff and trailing edge with white. **Voice:** Whistle. **In Flight:** Very elongated body. White neck and belly contrasts with dark head.



FEMALE

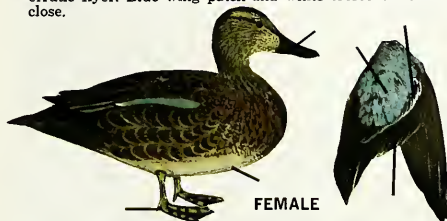
Body: Mottled drab brown. Head dull brown. Bill gray with small black spots. Feet gray. **Wings:** Mottled brown and buff with dull brownish speculum. **Voice:** Hoarse quack.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL



SMALL DUCK, LESS
THAN 1 POUND,
12-16 INCHES LONG

Body: Pale grayish cinnamon with numerous black spots. Head purplish with distinct white crescent. White spot on flank. Bill black. Feet dull gold. **Wings:** Lesser and middle coverts sky blue; greater coverts form distinct white bar. Speculum green. **Voice:** Whistling peep. **In Flight:** Small, erratic flyer. Blue wing-patch and white crescent visible up close.



FEMALE

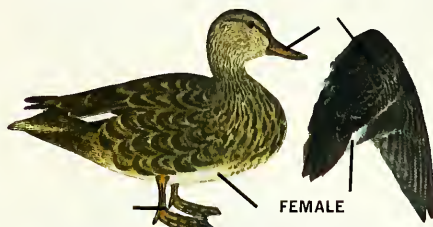
Body: Mottled brown with white belly. Head somewhat lighter brown. Bill grayish black with black spots. Feet dull greenish yellow. **Wings:** Similar to male except white bar blotched with gray. **Voice:** High-pitched quack.

GADWALL

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1½-2 POUNDS, 18-20
INCHES LONG

MALE

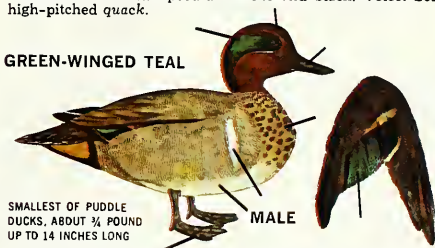
Body: Gray-brown appearance. White belly. Black upper- and undertail coverts. Bill black with trace of orange at base and on lower edge. Feet bright orangish yellow. **Wings:** White in speculum (only puddle duck with such). Greater coverts black; part of middle and lesser coverts chestnut. **Voice:** Whistle and nyaak. **In Flight:** White belly and dark rump. White and black wing speculum evident.



FEMALE

Body: Mottled buff and brown. White belly. Bill yellow-orange with black spotting. Feet bright orangish yellow. **Wings:** Mottled gray similar to male but with less black and chestnut in coverts. Speculum white and black. **Voice:** Soft high-pitched quack.

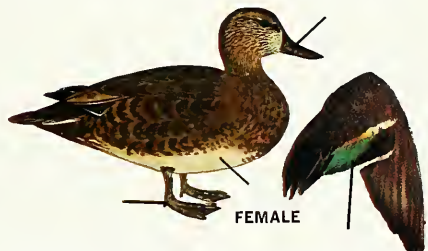
GREEN-WINGED TEAL



MALE

SMALLEST OF PUDDLE
DUCKS, ABOUT ¾ POUND
UP TO 14 INCHES LONG

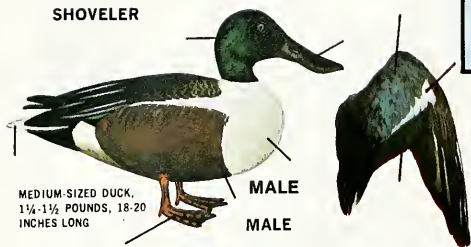
Body: Grayish with much vermiculation. Chest tan with dark spots. Belly white. White vertical bar on sides. Head cinnamon with iridescent green eye-mask. Bill and feet grayish black. **Wings:** Mostly brown with iridescent green and black speculum. **Voice:** Twittering whistle. **In Flight:** Very small. Flight swift and erratic. Males show white belly opposed to dark belly on Blue-wing and Cinnamon Teal.



FEMALE

Body: Mottled brown with white belly. Bill grayish black with small black spots. Feet and wings similar to male. **Voice:** High-pitched quack.

SHOVELER



MEDIUM SIZED DUCK.
1½-1¾ POUNDS, 18-20
INCHES LONG

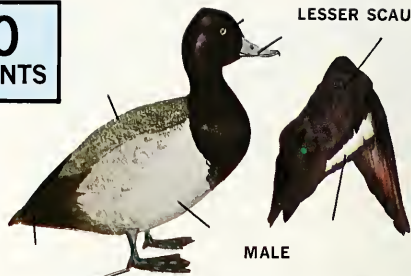
MALE

MALE

Body: Rich cinnamon belly. White chest and tail. Head iridescent green. Bill black, long, broad and spoon-shaped. Eyes yellow. Feet orange. **Wings:** Lesser and middle coverts sky blue; greater coverts form distinct white bar. Speculum iridescent green. Central shaft of primaries distinctively white. **Voice:** Silent or weak took-took. **In Flight:** Spoon-shaped bill and head appear large and carried low. White chest contrasts with cinnamon belly.

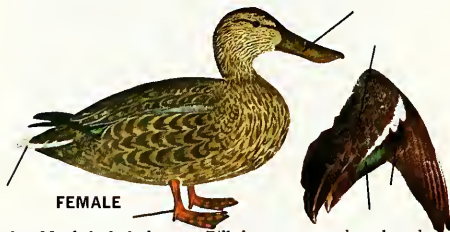
10
POINTS

LESSER SCAUP



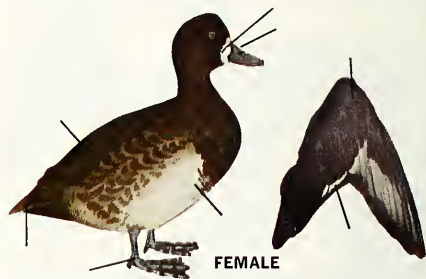
MALE

Body: Gray vermiculated back with white sides and belly. Head purple-black. Chest and rump black. Eyes yellow. Bill light blue, short and broad. Feet gray. **Wings:** Dark brown with white flecking on coverts and tertials. Speculum white. **Voice:** *Purr*. **In Flight:** Rapid wingbeat. Dark head and chest contrast with white belly.



FEMALE

Body: Mottled drab brown. Bill large, spoon-shaped and orangish green, usually with black spots. Tail dusky white. Feet bright orange. **Wings:** Lesser and middle coverts brownish, tinged with sky blue; greater coverts form distinct white bar. Speculum subdued green. Central shaft of primaries distinctively white. **Voice:** Feeble quack.



FEMALE

Body: Dull brown with distinct white belly. Prominent white patch at base of bill. Eyes yellow. Bill and feet similar to male. **Wings:** Dark brown with minute white flecking on coverts. Speculum white. **Voice:** *Purr* or silent.

ZONED DUCKS

(Continued from page 5)

coots will be one half hour before sunrise to sunset daily, except that on December 10 in the West Zone and November 19 and December 17 in the East Zone shooting hours will begin at noon.

Louisiana's 1975-76 goose season will span a full 70 days of hunting. The season will be split with the first segment scheduled to run for 9 days, November 22 to November 30, and the second segment to open on December 10 and continue through February 8, 1976. Daily

bag and possession limits for geese remain unchanged at 5 geese in the aggregate of blue, snow, and white-fronted species of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted. The season on Canada geese remains closed in Louisiana. Shooting hours for geese are one half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

All waterfowl hunters should consult the special Migratory Bird Hunting Pamphlet which contains complete information pertaining to Louisiana's 1975-76 duck and goose hunting seasons. The pamphlet also contains information on dove, snipe, woodcock, gallinule, and rail hunting for 1975-76 in Louisiana.

Both ducks and geese enjoyed excellent reproductive success on the breeding grounds this past summer and prospects for above average flights of all waterfowl into Louisiana are indeed bright. If good weather and water conditions prevail, all of the necessary ingredients for a banner waterfowl year will be on hand in Louisiana for the 1975-76 season. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission urges all hunters to abide by established hunting regulations and to help protect wildlife resources by reporting all violations to state or federal law enforcement agents.

Special Scaup Season

In addition to the regular duck season, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission will again provide hunters the opportunity to participate in a special 11 day scaup-only hunting season. It is scheduled to run from January 21 through January 31, 1976. The areas open to scaup hunting in southeast Louisiana are listed alphabetically and outlined on the map below along with other applicable regulations.

The commission urges hunters to obtain a good, detailed map of the

southeastern Louisiana coastal area and note the lakes and bays that will be open to scaup hunting. A quadrangle map or an official map of Louisiana is recommended for this purpose. Hunters who plan to hunt during the scaup season should exercise extreme caution in open coastal waters and be prepared for rough weather conditions.

To be successful, scaup hunters will need to locate concentrations of these small divers in the open lakes and bays and then try to set up a blind with a

decoy spread as near as possible to the area being used by the birds. Small islands or points of marsh near the flight patterns of feeding scaup will provide the best locations for a successful hunt.

Hunters should be aware that strict enforcement of the hunting regulations by state and federal conservation agents will be in effect during this special season. Hunting activity must be confined to the prescribed areas only and taking of waterfowl other than scaup is strictly prohibited.

Special Scaup Only Season: 11 days January 21-January 31, 1976

Daily Bag Limit 5, Possession Limit 10

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The open waters of the following lakes and bays in southeast Louisiana will open for taking SCAUP only and will not include the connecting or adjacent streams, canals, bayous and marshes.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. American Bay | 11. Lake Calabasse | 21. Lake Eloi | 31. Long Bay | 41. Bay Ronquille |
| 2. Lake Athanasio | 12. California Bay | 22. Lake Felicity | 32. Lake Machias | 42. Bay Round |
| 3. Barataria Bay | 13. Caminada Bay | 23. Bay Gardene | 33. Bay Melville | 43. Lake St. Catherine |
| 4. Lake Barre | 14. Cat Bay | 24. Lake Grande Ecaille | 34. Morgan Harbor | 44. Shell Island Bay |
| 5. Bastian Bay | 15. East Champagne Bay | 25. Jacko Bay | 35. Old Lady Lake | 45. Shell Island Lake |
| 6. Bay Batiste | 16. Lake Chien | 26. Bay Joe Wise | 36. Pelican Lake | 46. Bay Tambour |
| 7. Black Bay | 17. Creole Bay | 27. Kelly Gap | 37. Lake Pelté | 47. Terrebonne Bay |
| 8. Bay Boudreau | 18. Bay des Ilettes | 28. Lake LaFontaine | 38. Lake Pontchartrain | 48. Timbalier Bay |
| 9. Lake Borgne | 19. Drum Bay | 29. Lawson Bay | 39. Quarantine Bay | 49. West Champagne Bay |
| 10. Caillou Bay | 20. Eloi Bay | 30. Bay Long | 40. Lake Racourci | |



WHAT ALL BOAT OWNERS SHOULD KNOW

...About Motorboat Registration

by McFadden Duffy

Act 321 of the 1975 Louisiana Legislature amended the Louisiana Motorboat Safety Act to conform with provisions of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. This makes mandatory the registration of all boats in Louisiana equipped with or propelled by machinery regardless of size, type, or horsepower, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion. The Act became effective August 1, but enforcement will not start until January to allow owners time to comply. Registration fees remain the same.

The following questions and answers are designed to acquaint all owners of boats powered by motors with Act 321... why it was passed by the legislature... and why it is necessary that all owners of motorboats in the state comply with provisions of the Act before January.

QUESTION: Why did the Louisiana Legislature pass Act 321, making it mandatory to register all boats in Louisiana that are powered by motors regardless of the size of boat or the horsepower of the motor?

ANSWER: If the legislature had failed to pass the act, registration of all motorboats in Louisiana would have gone from the hands of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to the United States Coast Guard. For the record, when the Louisiana Legislature failed to pass a new motorboat law or amend the old one in the 1974 session, Louisiana's existing motorboat law failed to meet

the requirements of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. At that time the Coast Guard could have taken over all motorboat registration in the state. Instead, it chose to grant Louisiana a grace period of a year on the assumption that the 1975 legislature would amend the existing motorboat law so that it met federal requirements.

QUESTION: If the U. S. Coast Guard had taken over motorboat registration, would the cost of registration have increased? Would actual registration by the Coast Guard have been handled in Louisiana or would it have been transferred to Washington?

ANSWER: The Coast Guard admittedly stated that the initial registration fee of \$5, covering a three-year period, was minimal and that the cost would have been higher if the Coast Guard was obliged to take over this function from the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The Coast Guard also made it plain that actual registration of boats would be transferred to Washington. That would have meant persons desiring to register boats would have had to deal with Washington as far as registration application, issuance of numbers, and all necessary paper work was concerned. This would have resulted in delays that would have caused boat owners hardship.

QUESTION: Exactly what boats have to be registered under the act? What is acceptable to the U. S. Coast Guard to be in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971?

ANSWER: Under the Louisiana Act which now contains provisions of the Federal Act, *all* boats powered by machinery (motors) must be registered. This includes all craft regardless of size or horsepower—pirogues with motors, canoes propelled wholly or at times by outboard motors, sailboats with auxiliary motors, and any craft powered by inboard or outboard motors. There are no exceptions to this registration requirement. Any boat powered by a motor must be registered!

QUESTION: Isn't this placing a hardship on owners of boats powered by engines of 10 horsepower or less? Under the former law, boats such as inboard pirogues and canoes powered by small outboards were exempt.

ANSWER: Actually, having the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission retain motorboat registration will make it easier and less costly for owners to register their boats as required by both federal and state laws. The initial fee of \$5 will remain the same, as will the renewal fee of \$3. This is considerably cheaper than it would have been under control of the U. S. Coast Guard. And in the long run, it represents a saving in money to Louisiana boat owners.

QUESTION: What is the deadline for registration of all motorboats? When will enforcement begin?

ANSWER: The Louisiana Act became effective August 1, but both the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the U. S. Coast Guard realized it would take time to register all the boats which needed registration. It was agreed that enforcement would be postponed until January. That doesn't leave too much time until deadline, so it is strongly urged that owners act immediately. The commission,

as well as the Coast Guard, is withholding giving citations until January but urging all boat owners they encounter to register their craft as soon as possible.

QUESTION: How do I go about registering my boat if it falls into the category to be registered?

ANSWER: Registration applications may be obtained from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, 70130, in person or through the mail. They can also be obtained at all District Offices of the commission, as well as from many boat dealers around the state.

QUESTION: What is the cost of registration?

ANSWER: Initial registration covering three years is \$5. Renewals cost \$3 for each additional three years. When the application has been properly filled in, a check or money order for the proper fee should accompany the registration. Boat owners are notified by mail when renewal date comes up.

QUESTION: When I am assigned numbers for my boat, what are the regulations as to putting them on? What about the certificate of registration?

ANSWER: The awarded boat numbers must be permanently attached or painted on each side of the bow above the water line. They must run horizontally in as near an upright position as possible. No numbers other than those awarded can be displayed on either side of the bow or forward third of the boat. Letters and numbers, block characters not less than 3 inches in height excluding borders, must be displayed in three parts with a hyphen or equivalent space separating each part. Characters of varying thicknesses, slanted characters, and scroll-type characters are not acceptable. As for the registration certificate, it is advised that a copy be kept in a waterproof container on the boat at all times and that the original be put in a safe place where it readily can be found by the owner. The original registration certificate is as important as the pink slip to automobile registration.



Lloyd Poissenot
In January when enforcement of Act 321 begins, calling for mandatory registration of all boats powered by motors, it will be necessary for boat owners not only to have their craft marked with block-type numbers and letters but to carry a copy of their registration certificate on the boat when it is in use. They may be checked for the registration certificate as well as proper numbering.

Reds and Specks — Subjects of Study

by Johnnie Tarver

Photography by Lloyd Poissenot

Of all the recent fisheries controversies, gill nets and gill netting seem to be drawing the greatest attention. Not only in Louisiana, but in nearly every state along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas there is public concern regarding "alleged depletion" of speckled trout and redfish.

Current studies are being undertaken by Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi in response to public concern. These studies are expected to answer pertinent questions about fishery populations, fishing pressure, fishing success, and other environmental factors that may be important to the redfish and speckled trout life cycles.

In the Bayou State, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has instituted a study concerning finfish catches utilizing monofilament gill nets, multi-filament trammel nets, and recreational gear. The project is designed to obtain relevant data concerning standing crop values (how many fish there are) for both speckled trout and redfish, seasonal and area abundance, and movement and migration activities of these species.

In addition to normal biological sampling, tagging of speckled trout and redfish will be done and interviews with both commercial and sports fishermen will be attempted to determine both movement of fish

populations and catch statistics relevant to the type of gear used.

Representative samples will be made at three selected sites along coastal Louisiana—the Chandeleur Island area, Calcasieu Lake, and the Timbalier-Terrebonne Bay area. Sampling will be made in each of these regions, and data concerning fish populations will be obtained by using trammel nets. Seasonal and area abundance will be determined by utilizing monofilament gill nets, recreational tackle, and other appropriate gear. Salinity, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, sky cover, turbidity, and other select factors will be gathered simultaneously with biological samples, so that environmental conditions may be correlated to population dynamics.

Specific gear will include nylon trammel nets commonly used commercially, recreational tackle and baits normally used by sportsmen, and monofilament gill nets of the kind used most by coastal Louisiana commercial fishermen. Consequently, the results will be based on the gear used by both groups.

At least 50 fish from each sampling, using gill nets, trammel nets, and sports tackle, will be *measured* and weighed. The remainder of the fish caught will be *counted* and weighed. In the environmental samplings (wind, temperature, salinity, et cet-

era), high-accuracy instruments will be utilized to provide sophisticated answers to sophisticated questions.

The program will be thorough.

The commission plans to tag over 50,000 fish in the three-year study...cost will run approximately \$100,000 per year...five full-time marine biologists are assigned to the program...12 part-time biologists and a host of commission personnel will assist in collecting formulative information...and there is going to be countless hours spent in analyzing final data.

Determined to find answers, the commission, however, must not only have detailed biological reports and findings but help from commercial and sports fishermen who take these tagged fish out of the water. In the very *least*, it will be a very *great* cooperative effort.

On the basis of past study, present knowledge, and future research, biological common sense would suggest that any drastic changes in current sport and commercial fishing methods be delayed until the "facts" are in.

For only when accurate predictions have been established for the future of the present fish populations can plans be devised to insure that no irreparable damage will be done to Louisiana's ever-popular fishing industry.



Fisheries biologists are shown setting a monofilament gill net in coastal waters (above) as part of a projected three-year study of redfish and speckled trout taken by both commercial and sports tackle. A Spanish mackerel being taken from the gill net (below) indicates that monofilament gill nets are not selective as to species taken.



As part of the intensive study that will be made over the three-year period, biologists will also repeatedly test multifilament trammel nets. They are shown putting out a multifilament trammel net above. Below, a speckled trout is removed from the net later. Speckled trout and redfish will be tagged and released under the program. Both commercial and sports fishermen are requested to return data on tagged fish caught.



HOLIDAY RECIPES

OYSTERS BIENVILLE

- 4 dozen oysters
- 1 pound cooked shrimp
- 1 large can mushrooms
- 5 cloves garlic
- 1 large onion
- 1 stick butter
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 1½ cups milk
- ½ cup cream
- 1½ cups chicken broth
- ¼ cup white wine
- Grated Parmesan cheese
- Bread crumbs
- Paprika

Dice fine the shrimp, mushrooms, garlic, and onion. Melt butter, stir in flour, then add milk, cream, broth, and wine. Stir constantly until thickened. Add chopped ingredients and simmer slowly for about 15 minutes. Put oysters in shells on rock salt and slide under hot broiler for 2 minutes. Drain off liquid. Cover with sauce, grated cheese, bread crumbs, and paprika. Brown under broiler until bubbly. Serves 8.

By Marian "Pie" Pendley

REMOULADE SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar
- 2 tablespoons hot mustard
- 1 teaspoon horseradish
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 2 green onions and tops, finely chopped

- 1 tablespoon parsley, minced

Combine vinegar with mustard, horseradish, and seasonings. Gradually add oil and blend well. Add celery, green onions, and parsley. Pour over boiled shrimp and chill for several hours. When ready to serve, mix well and serve on shredded lettuce. Serves four.



OYSTER PATTIES

- 1 stick butter
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 rib celery, finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch green onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 3 dozen oysters
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash red pepper

1/2 bunch parsley, finely chopped
Sauté onion and celery in butter until light brown. Add shellots and flour and blend well. Add milk, oysters and seasonings. Simmer over low heat until thick. Add chopped parsley. Pour thickened sauce into heated patty shells. Garnish with pimento and serve immediately. Serves four.

RICI DRESSING WITH OYSTERS AND MUSHROOMS

- 2 cups cooked rice
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 medium chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 chopped bell pepper
- 1 clove crushed garlic
- 1 qt. oysters
- 5-6 sliced fresh mushrooms
- Cooked giblets chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 8-10 chopped green onions

Salt, pepper, hot sauce to taste
Melt butter and add onions, celery, bell pepper, garlic, and mushrooms. Sauté until soft, add oysters and giblets. Simmer slowly, add parsley and green onions. Season to taste and mix thoroughly with hot cooked rice. If too dry, add some of the liquid in which giblets were cooked.

AMBROSIA

- 1 dozen Louisiana oranges
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 fresh coconut
- Confectioners sugar

Grate the coconut. Peel and slice oranges, removing all seeds. In a large glass bowl place a layer of orange slices, sprinkle with sugar, then add a layer of coconut. Continue until all ingredients are used, ending with a layer of coconut. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and let stand for about two hours before serving. This is a famous Creole dessert and very good after a heavy meal.

BRAISED DUCKS

- 3 wild ducks
- Celery
- Bell pepper
- Onion
- Salt & pepper
- 1/4 cup salad oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sherry
- Flour to thicken gravy

Clean and wash ducks inside and out. Dry. Season well inside and out with salt and red pepper and stuff with a piece of celery, onion, and bell pepper. Brown the ducks in open roasting pan in salad oil. Add water and sherry, cover, and cook over low heat two to three hours. Thicken gravy with a paste of flour mixed with water.



The purpose of wildlife management is to maintain populations of wild animals at levels consistent with the best interests of wild species themselves and of the American public. Satisfying that objective is a big, complex job.

At the federal level, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior is primarily responsible for regulating interstate and international traffic in wildlife and wildlife products and enforcing regulations applying to designated migratory birds. The Service administers the national wildlife refuge system, which provides protected and managed habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. It conducts research and maintains cooperative programs with state fish and wildlife agencies, private conservation groups, universities, and other federal land-management agencies.

The Service is funded primarily from the U.S. Treasury to the extent of around \$90 million a year. It receives more than \$10 million annually from Duck Stamp revenues that are applied primarily to the expansion and development of the national wildlife refuge system. Each waterfowl hunter, 16 years of age and over, must purchase a federal hunting stamp each year.

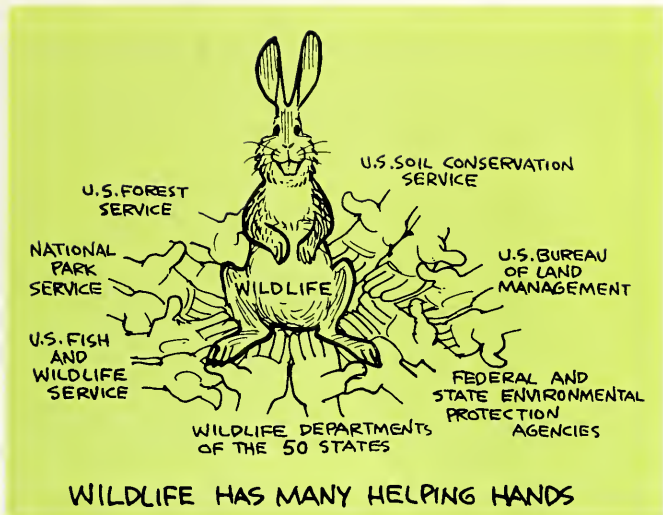
The U.S. Forest Service which controls 187 million acres of national forests, and the Bureau of Land Management which administers 465 million acres of public lands, and the Soil Conservation Service also employ staffs of wildlife specialists whose salaries are paid by congressional appropriations. Considering the vast acreages of wildlife habitat involved, the manpower and funds available have been inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the task.

Each of the 50 states has an agency responsible for managing and protecting wildlife. These agencies are financed almost exclusively by sales of licenses to hunters and anglers and by receipts from federal taxes on sporting arms and ammunition and fishing tackle allocated to them for approved fish and wildlife conservation projects. The combined annual budgets of the state agencies, from these sources and others, exceed a third of a billion dollars. Approximately \$250 million of this is derived from sportsmen.

Although program emphasis and organizations vary, the typical state agency contains a research branch that obtains facts on the status of various species of wildlife and develops techniques for management: a management branch that maintains, improves and develops habitat, and performs

The Game Management Story...

In Perspective (Conclusion)



such tasks as livetrapping and transplanting surplus wildlife; a law enforcement branch, responsible for enforcing the laws and regulations applying to fish and wildlife; and a branch of public education and information.

The state, under common law rooted in the Magna Carta, owns and holds in trust for its people all of the wildlife within its borders. In the case of migratory birds, marine mammals, eagles, and some other species, prerogatives for protection have been assumed by the Federal Government through its treaty-making powers and special acts of Congress. Since state laws affecting these species usually parallel the federal laws, these species generally receive dual protection. Federal and state conservation officers cooperate closely in protecting wildlife.

State fish and wildlife agencies own or manage more than 50 million acres for wildlife production. These refuges and management areas provide the habitat needs of a wide range of birds and mammals, unhunted as well as hunted. State wildlife managers also work with landowners and with state and federal foresters and land managers to improve, restore and maintain wildlife habitat on private and public lands.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MODERN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

To appreciate the present, one must understand the past. Around 1900, most authorities did not have much hope for any of the larger forms of wildlife surviving far beyond the 1920's. This pessimistic view failed to foresee the scientific wildlife management programs that developed in the early 1930's and which have been expanded through subsequent decades. Here are a few historical comparisons:

- **Beaver: 1900**—Eliminated from the states of the Mississippi Valley and all eastern states except Maine: common only in Alaska and a few localities in the Pacific Northwest and Rockies. *Today*: Common to abundant in nearly all states except Hawaii.

- **Pronghorn Antelope: 1925**—Authorities estimated 13,000 to 26,000 in U.S.A., most in Wyoming and Montana. *Today*: Minimum population in all western states is 500,000.

- **Bison: 1895**—800 survivors. *Today*: Population about 6,000 in U.S.A.; all available range fully stocked.

- **Elk: 1907**—Common only in and around Yellowstone National Park; estimated total south of Canada, 41,000. *Today*: About 1 million in 16 states.

- **White-tailed Deer: 1895**—About 350,000 south of Canada; extirpated from more than half the states. *Today*: Approximately 12 million in 48 states.

- **Wild Turkey: 1930**—Common in only a few southern states, eliminated from most. *Today*: Restored to 43 states, including establishment in several outside original range of species.

- **Fur Seal: 1911**—Official census on Pribilof Island showed 215,900. *Today*: Herd maintained at around 1.5 million under a scientific management program.

- **Egrets and Herons: 1910**—Several species on the brink of extinction because of slaughter on their nesting grounds by feather collectors to supply the millinery trade. *Today*: Most species common to abundant over most of the United States.

- Trumpeter Swan: 1935—73 survivors south of Canada on one wildlife refuge. *Today:* Thriving populations on two national parks and several national wildlife refuges. Removed from endangered status in the late 1960's.

- Wood Duck: 1915—Greatly reduced in numbers and considered a candidate for early extinction. *Today:* The most common breeding waterfowl in eastern U.S.A.

- Sea Otter: 1907—Nearly extinct; a few survivors in Alaska's Aleutian chain and in coastal California. *Today:* Minimum of 50,000; successfully restored to waters of mainland Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, increasing and extending range in California.

Since 1938, state fish and wildlife agencies have used sportsmen's license fees and special taxes under the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act to:

- Acquire, develop, or manage 2,900 wildlife refuges and management areas totalling nearly 40 million acres. These lands protect vital habitat of a wide range of wildlife and are heavily used by bird watchers, nature students, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

- Construct or restore more than 300 lakes for fish and wildlife with a total surface acreage of 35,000.

- Acquire or develop more than 3,000 public access areas that open nearly a million otherwise inaccessible acres and 2,000 miles of stream to outdoor recreational use.

- Livetrapped and transplant to unoccupied habitat more than 50,000 deer, 16,000 antelope, 2,000 elk, 1,000 mountain sheep, 18,000 fur animals, 20,000 wild turkeys, 22,000 waterfowl, and 130,000 quail.

- Conduct extensive research on wildlife habitat needs, diseases, population trends, predator-prey relationships, and wildlife crop-damage abatement.

- Assist hundreds of thousands of landowners with wildlife habitat improvement projects.

- Conduct public conservation education programs for school teach-

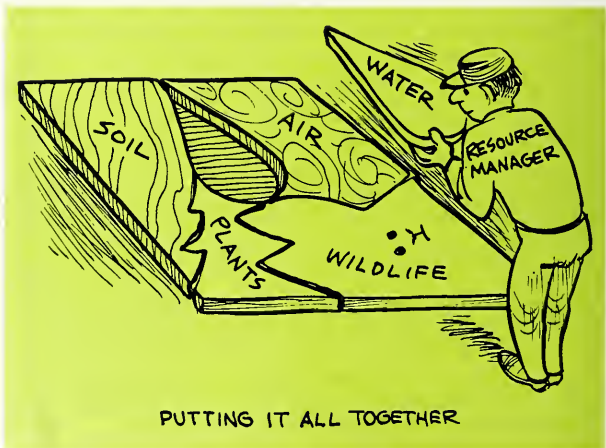


ers and students and promote understanding of wildlife needs and habits through articles and television shows.

- Protect both hunted and non-hunted wildlife by apprehending conservation law violators. Many state conservation law enforcement officers also enforce laws against polluters, whose activities impose serious threats to wildlife and its habitats. But, as in all resource management efforts, public support is essential.

There are many steps the concerned citizen can take to assure the future of America's wildlife.

Those who own land, whether suburban lot, woodlot, farm or ranch, can make improvements that will attract and hold wildlife, often at minimum expense. Many state agencies provide on-the-ground technical assistance and inexpensive wildlife food and cover planting stock within the limitations of budget and manpower.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Additional information and assistance are available from the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at your state university.

Those who do not own land directly are shareholders in the largest landholdings in the United States. These are the 725 million acres of national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, public domain, and other lands held in trust for the American public by the Federal Government. Even on the national wildlife refuges, program funding has not kept pace with demand. As a citizen shareholder you can insist that Congress and the Administration provide adequate funds to maintain balanced uses of resources and wildlife populations on all public lands.

Additionally, all citizens can help wildlife if they:

- Support federal, state, and local efforts to develop land-use planning programs that protect vital wildlife habitat from unnecessary and haphazard development.
- Urge public officials to consider wildlife in all programs affecting land and water developments.
- Insist that agriculture, flood-control, and other publicly subsidized government programs yield broad public benefits in the form of wildlife enhancement.

- Realize that wetlands are not wastelands but essential units of the landscape that have important ecological functions of economic and cultural importance to man.

- Reject simplistic panaceas for maintaining and restoring wildlife based on unscientific emotion.

The perpetuation of wildlife requires the attention of well-trained and experienced specialists. Each state now has a staff of such scientists. See that they have the public support and funds needed to carry out their work in a climate free from political meddling.

America can retain and expand its rich wildlife heritage if it applies scientifically sound facts to the management of all wild species and if its citizens harmonize their activities with the systems of nature.

MANAGEMENT BROUGHT
US BACK !!



WITH PEOPLES' HELP,
WE CAN COME BACK TOO!



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN
STATELY CANADA GEESE COULD
BE SEEN WINGING ACROSS THE
COASTAL MARSHES OF LOUISIANA,
THEIR ANCESTRAL WINTERING
GROUNDS. WATERFOWLERS
HIGHLY PRIZED THESE BIG
GEESE. IN THE 1940'S, HOWEVER,
MANIPULATION OF THE FLOCKS
BEGAN TO CHANGE AGE-OLD
MIGRATORY PATTERNS. TODAY
WILD CANADA GEESE ARE A RARE
SIGHT IN THE STATE, AND
PERHAPS THE RESIDENT
POPULATION ON ROCKEFELLER
WILDLIFE REFUGE REPRESENTS...



THE LAST OF A LEGACY



by McFadden Duffy
Photography by Lloyd Poissenot

During the 1961-62 waterfowling season, Louisiana hunters were allowed "two Canada geese, or subspecies, or two white-fronted geese (specklebellies), or one of each in the daily bag and possession limit." The season ran a generous 60 days. A year later the digest of hunting regulations contained a terse sentence in that section dealing with goose hunting. It read "*Closed season on Canada geese.*" It has remained closed ever since.

This hunting year will mark the 14th one that the season on Canada geese in Louisiana remains closed. There are few waterfowlers in the state who even entertain distant hope that Canada geese will ever be widely hunted in Louisiana again. Even the flocks that filter down to Louisiana in the winter, perhaps tugged by ancestral urging as old as the continent, are dwindling each year. It will not be too many years before the only Canadas to be viewed in the state will be those that make up the resident flock at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near Cameron.



The gradual reduction in winter migration of Canada geese to Louisiana that led to closure of hunting these geese in the 1962-63 season was brought about by the establishment of federal goose management units in the northcentral states. Refuges and farming programs initiated to entice and hold Canada geese in those areas proved successful.

One of the best illustrations of how "goose management" actually was "goose manipulation" can be seen in happenings at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Wildlife workers report that Canada geese were a rare sight in the area prior to establishment of that sanctuary. In 1939-40, small flocks passed over the refuge during fall migration. Some geese stayed overnight to feed in adjoining fields. The Swan Lake flock began to build up in 1941 when an estimated 800 geese used the site. Wintering populations continued to build until 1955, when peak population numbered about 133,000 geese. At the same time this was taking place, *Louisiana's wintering population declined from an estimated peak of 200,000 Canada geese.*

This year's hunting regulations speak eloquently of what has taken place in a single generation. In Missouri, in the Swan Lake area, "the season on Canada geese closes after 45 days or when 25,000 birds have been harvested, whichever comes first" In the southeastern area of Missouri, there is a 45-day season during which the daily bag is one Canada goose or two white-fronted geese, or one of each; the possession limit is four Canada and two white-fronted geese. In the remainder of Missouri there can be a 45-day season with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese, or two white-fronted geese, or one of each.

Wisconsin has a Canada goose quota of 28,000 birds and Illinois has a quota of 28,000. That's 56,000 Canada geese allowed Illinois and Wisconsin, with 25,000 allowed in the Swan Lake area of Missouri alone. This is a total of 81,000 Canada geese for two states and part of a third state.

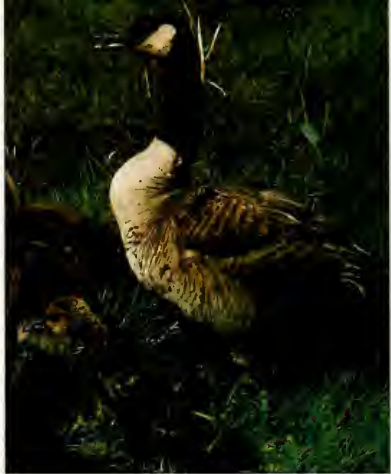
So drastic was the manipulation of Canada goose populations in just two decades, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated several programs aimed at restoring Canada geese to huntable levels in Louisiana. Several approaches to the problem were decided upon.

The first was closure of Canada goose hunting in the state. It was hoped that by eliminating all gunning pressure the remnant migrant population would have an opportunity to build back.

The second approach involved trucking-in immature Canada geese and placing them at intermediate points along the traditional migratory route south of the refuge in Missouri. Theory behind the program was that young geese without prior migratory experience would accept and return to the new release sites, since no definite migratory patterns had been formulated. However, trapping operations on Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge later indicated the majority of these transplanted birds wintered on the refuge—rather than come farther south—the following year.

Finally, the commission chose to acquire adult birds and investigate the possibility of establishing a non-migratory nesting colony of Canada geese in Louisiana. This program began in 1960 on Rockefeller Refuge when 72 wild Canadas were obtained from the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin.





Above, an adult goose herds fledging goslings toward water after they have grazed in the enclosed pasture at Rockefeller. Artificial incubation of the first clutch of eggs from each laying goose, coupled with natural hatching of the second clutch, resulted in excellent production of goslings (below) which has now swelled the resident Canada goose population on and near Rockefeller to upwards of 3,000 birds.

By 1968, there were 95 nests on the 100-acre pasture at Rockefeller (above) and the resident population of geese began an upward spiral. Eggs from the first clutch (below) were taken from the nests and placed in incubators. Geese were allowed to hatch the second clutch. This sped reproduction of the resident flock of Canada geese on the refuge.





Later, several hundred birds were acquired from private propagators in Minnesota and Regina (Saskatchewan). All the adult birds obtained were permanently pinioned and released on a 100-acre pasture near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters.

In the spring of 1961, one pair nested. From this nesting attempt, three young were produced. But as the birds became acclimated to the coastal marshes, and with additional birds being added each year, the number of nesting pairs increased. During the 1968 nesting season, 95 nests were located on the 100-acre pasture. Young birds raised from previous years were banded and permitted to fly.

The free-flyers moved off the refuge each day to feed and rest on the Grand Lake and White Lake marshes. With the adult birds held flightless, young free-flyers showed no tendency to migrate and remained in Louisiana all year around.

As the program progressed, additional birds were acquired and greater results were obtained from nesting. In some cases, the first clutches of eggs were taken from the nests and hatched in incubators. Parent birds then would lay second clutches as is customary during nesting in the wild when the first clutch is lost to predators or climatic conditions. This virtually doubled production from each nesting pair of Canadas.

Additionally, Canada geese fanned out as far as 40-50 miles from the refuge to nest. In fact, it is now estimated that half the breeding Canada geese are nesting off the refuge, and total resident population currently is right at 2,800.

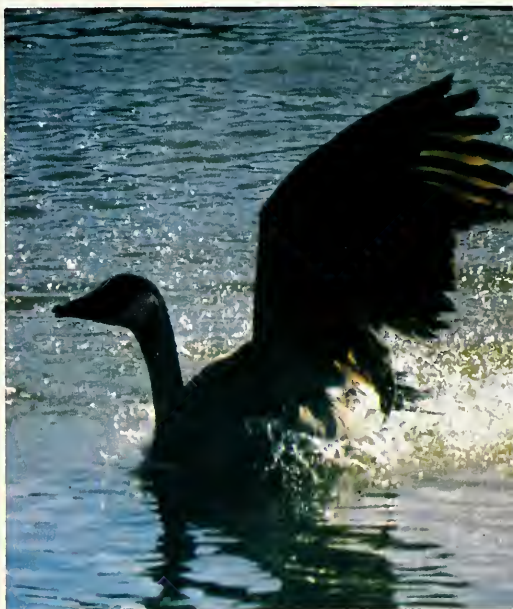
The early hope that closing the season on Canada goose hunting in Louisiana after the 1961-62 season would help the declining migrant population rebuild proved unsuccessful. Closure failed to do this, and today barely one tenth of the 10,000-geese migrant population that visited Louisiana in the early 1960's winter in Louisiana. It is now believed that the resident flock built up at Rockefeller and in the marshes adjacent to the refuge is almost three times the total number of migrants.

Initial plans were to establish resident flocks of Canadas at various points in coastal Louisiana. The hope was they would increase in population to the point where a short season could be held. There are enough geese on Rockefeller to start building resident flocks in other coastal areas, but such a program would involve additional personnel and considerable funds.

A possible solution would be cooperation in the program by private interests. This would involve fencing considerable acreage, constant protection and supervision of remote flocks, and supplemental feeding. Efforts to enlist this support have not been successful.

The Canada goose program at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge has gained the admiration and respect of conservation and wildlife organizations throughout the country. The final objectives of the program remain unchanged, however. So to persons who drive past the refuge in the mornings or late afternoons, and see the stately Canada geese winging across the marshes to feed, a question remains unanswered.

Are *these* Canada geese the last of a legacy?





J. Burton Angelle (left), Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission director, talks with Governor Edwin Edwards about the opportunities afforded Louisiana sportsmen and others seeking outdoor recreation through the commission's land acquisition program. The discussion followed Edwards' signing of the Act of Sale creating the new Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

Ouachita Wildlife Management Area

3,075 Acres

In August the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission purchased a tract of land composed of 3,075 acres in Ouachita Parish, approximately eight miles southeast of Monroe. It has been officially named the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area and was opened to hunting this year.

The new tract in north Louisiana, obtained from Crown-Zellerbach Corporation, consists primarily of bottomland hardwoods. The purchase of the new area is in keeping with the commission's policy of buying this type of land, which is rapidly being cleared and converted to agricultural and other land uses.

The new tract offers ideal habitat for deer, squirrel, rabbit, and woodcock, along with wood duck and certain other species of waterfowl. Furbearers on the tract include raccoon, mink, bobcat, coyote, opossum, fox, and some nutria.

Act of Sale for the new wildlife management area took place August 7. Papers were signed by Governor Edwin Edwards in his office in Baton Rouge. The purchase that day brought to 214,268 acres the amount of property acquired by the commission since its land acquisition program began in 1960.

Access to the Ouachita WMA at this time is limited and primarily by water via the Lafourche Canal just off La. Hwy. 15. However, at the September 30 meeting of the commission it agreed to explore construction of a road on a right-of-way offered by adjacent land owners, Richland Plantation, that would extend one and three-quarter miles from an existing road into the management area.

The accelerated land purchasing program of the commission this year was made possible by appropriation of funds by the 1974 Louisiana Legislature. It also reflects the interest of both the legislature and Governor Edwards in assisting the commission to obtain as much suitable land while it is still available and priced within reach of the commission.

Photography by Lloyd Poissenot



The new wildlife management area is ideally suited for squirrel, rabbit, deer, and woodcock, as well as wood ducks and other waterfowl. Wooded areas (above) consists primarily of hardwoods. The new tract was opened for hunting this season and squirrel hunters (below) were the first to utilize the new tract.



A high-contrast, black and white photograph capturing the silhouette of an oyster harvester. The worker, wearing a cap and waders, is bent over, using a long-handled tool to lift a large quantity of oysters from the water. A spray of oysters is captured mid-air, creating a dynamic sense of action. The background shows a calm body of water under a pale sky. A vertical post with a rope is visible on the right side of the frame.

OPERATION OYSTER!

by Ron Dugas
Photography by Lloyd Poissenot

Chilling winds from the first cold front to slip down from Canada turns the thoughts—and appetites—of many people to oysters, those succulent mollusks that reach delicious flavors in Louisiana's bays and bayous.

Actually, oysters are edible year 'round. But there is an old wives tale, originating back to the days of no refrigeration and suggesting that oysters not be eaten during months without "R's" in them, that still prevents some oyster consumption during R-less months.

Eaten raw or prepared in a variety of recipes, the oyster is one of Louisiana's most popular seafoods. Consequently, demand for the bivalve delicacies has created an important commercial fishery with which the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is working to enhance production.

According to the statistical branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Louisiana oyster reefs consistently produce about 9,000,000 pounds of oyster meat each year, which, commercially, fall into three classifications: *steam-canned*, *raw-shop*, and *counter-stock*.

Steam-canned oysters are dredged from the state's natural reefs and taken directly to the cannery where they are opened by steam and the meats are removed, placed in cans, and processed. Many oysters for steam canning are provided for long in advance of marketing by shell plantings, carried on by the factories under the supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission which requires that factories bed specified quantities of shells.

Young oysters attach themselves to the shells, and in about two years they grow large enough to be brought in for processing. A great majority of oysters canned in Louisiana and Mississippi come from Louisiana reefs east of the mouth of the river.

Raw-shop oysters are those usually taken from natural reefs, cleaned and separated, and rebbed on grounds leased from the state. Because they require a great deal of cultivation, they become fatter and better shaped.

There are as many as 12 to 15 operations in handling this quality of oyster, but in spite of the operations never are they touched by human hands. Raw-shop oysters are brought to packing houses mostly by independent growers, removed from the shells, and shipped in refrigerated containers to all parts of the United States.

Counter-stock oysters are Louisiana's highest grade, those cultivated most carefully and served on the half-shell at oyster counters in fine restaurants.

This oyster usually is grown to maturity where freshwater nutrients are in concentration. But just before marketing time they are moved into salt-water beds until they reach a "just right" salty taste that gives them oyster bar quality.

When the early oyster fisherman noticed that some areas produced voluminous amounts of small oysters while others produced better tasting oysters, he became aware of a natural phenomenon. So immediately he began moving small oysters into areas that yielded the better quality product. He then decided to protect his interests and obtained legislation which divided the state's estuarine zone into two areas—those which could be privately leased and those set aside to be controlled and regulated by the state as "oyster seed grounds."

Seed oysters are those the oyster farmer fishes on seed grounds to re-bed or replant on private leases. So when the commission promulgates an oyster season, it pertains only to the oyster seed grounds, which, for the most part, are located east of the Mississippi River.

This past year the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission supervised dispersing approximately 30,000 cubic yards of clam shell on 600 acres of seed grounds to supply a setting surface for young oysters. The broadcasts are expected to increase oyster reef acreage on the grounds and thereby produce more oysters for Louisiana.

Add to the increased acreage the tremendous amounts of fresh water Louisiana experienced this year, and the oyster industry is affected two ways:

—first, while the fresh water killed off many oysters inshore of the estuary where fresh water concentration was high, it

—second, supplied enough important nutrients to some offshore oyster beds to enhance production of the salty, top-quality stock. In other words, these nutrients in outside estuary zones have produced this year some of the saltiest and tastiest oysters harvested in a long time.

Oyster fishermen in Louisiana number 1,062, and their total acreage under lease is approximately 140,000. These figures, compared to any other location containing oysters, speak for themselves as to the demand that makes those high quality Louisiana oysters famous the world over.





**“...and once a year
there’s an oyster
festival!”**





WILLIAM J. GUSTE, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Baton Rouge

70804

Mr. J. B. Angelle, Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 71101

September 24, 1975

Re: *United States v. State of Louisiana, et al.*
No. 9, Original

Dear Mr. Angelle:

Upon the occasion of receiving the \$136,000,000 Louisiana won in the Tidelands Controversy, it is appropriate to take note of the important services rendered by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and its staff in earlier phases of the case, particularly in connection with the gathering of evidence and the presentation of testimony before the Special Master.

We are confident that one of the reasons for the partial success had in East Bay relates to the photography and testimony of Mr. Allan Ensminger who contributed materially to the acceptance of area measurement positions and headland contentions of the state.

Mr. Richard Yancey played a major role in gathering and supporting the gathering of evidence, especially in connection with his testimony related to Cowhorn Island. Partly on the basis of that testimony, Louisiana was granted revenues from East Bay based on a line using Cowhorn Island until 1969.

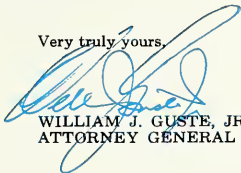
Although these particular efforts were outstandingly fruitful, Messrs. Ensminger and Yancey are also deserving of compliments for their implementation of the Commission's policy for full cooperation with the Attorney General's office in the gathering of evidence. Thus, when flights were needed or sites had to be inspected, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and its personnel and equipment frequently performed on the job.

Many of the photographs in evidence were the result of flights with Wildlife and Fisheries pilots, such as Mr. Buck Davis. Mr. Joseph Billiot was able to furnish important testimony on past events as were many other present and former employees of the Commission such as Messrs. Jack Hood and John Lay.

Dr. Lyle St. Amant cooperated in oyster and fisheries matters and was always available and rendered important testimony in the case relating to the historic claim.

To all of these people, who served so well and to the Commission itself, I wish to express the gratitude of the people of Louisiana.

Very truly yours,



WILLIAM J. GUSTE, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

WJGjr/yd
cc/ Dr. Lyle St. Amant
Mr. Joseph Billiot
Mr. Buck Davis
Mr. Allan Ensminger
Mr. Jack Hood
Mr. John Lay
Mr. Richard K. Yancey



Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*)



